

REMARKS

Claims 2-3, 5-7, 9, 11-12 and 14-17 are pending in this application after this amendment. Claims 2, 11, 14-15 and 17 are independent. Claims 1, 4, 8, 10 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter included therein. New claim 17 is presented for consideration by the Examiner. No new matter has been added by the addition of new claim 17. Based on the amendments and remarks made herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §101; rejected claims 1-6 and 9-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ghaffari (USP 5,751,220); and rejected claims 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ghaffari in view of Gardner (USP 6,891,478). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Examiner Interview

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner and his Supervisor for the Interview conducted on December 18, 2007. During the Interview, Applicant's representative explained the claimed invention. The parties discussed the teachings of Ghaffari. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner and his Supervisor for considering this Supplemental Amendment.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Applicant relies the Reply filed November 19, 2007, and the arguments included therein with regard claims 1, 9, and 11. As Applicant argued during the Interview, Ghaffari fails to teach or suggest "synchronization information frame transmission start time generating means for determining sets of synchronization information frame transmission start time information corresponding to said plurality of network terminals of the network system, and transmitting the sets of synchronization information frame transmission start time information to said plurality of network terminals, when said network terminal acts as a master terminal," as recited in claim 2. **Ghaffari fails to teach or suggest the new master terminal determining the start time information of the corresponding plurality of network terminals. Further, Ghaffari fails to**

teach or suggest the new master terminal transmitting the generated start time information to the network terminals. As such, Applicant submits that claim 2 is patentable over the reference as cited. It is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

By this amendment, Applicant has added new claim 17 for consideration by the Examiner. Claim 17 recites, *inter alia*, “priority list generating section determining an updated priority list including an updated priority corresponding to each of said plurality of network terminals of the network system, and transmitting the priority list to said plurality of network terminals, when said network terminal acts as a master terminal.”

Applicant respectfully submits that Ghaffari fails to teach or suggest the new master terminal determining an updated priority list including an updated priority corresponding to each of the plurality of network terminals. Further, Ghaffari fails to teach or suggest the new master terminal transmitting the priority list to the plurality of network terminals. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 17 is patentable over Ghaffari.

In addition to the arguments set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3, 5-7 and 9 are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 2 at least based on their dependency on claim 2. As claims 11, 14 and 15 include elements similar to those discussed with regard to claim 2, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 2.

Conclusion

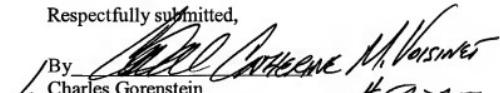
In view of the above remarks, it is believed that claims are allowable.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet Reg. No. 52,327 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Charles Gorenstein
Registration No.: 29,271
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant